

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

Released May 4, 2004, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* call Brian T. Young at (202) 720-7621, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

National Weather Summary Volume 91, No. 18 April 25 - May 1, 2004

For additional information, call (202) 720-2397.

Highlights: Moderate to heavy rain fell in the **western and central Gulf Coast regions**, maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture. Meanwhile, widespread showers eased stress on previously parched **Southeastern** pastures, winter grains, and summer crops. Farther north, showers maintained favorable soil moisture reserves in the **southern and eastern Corn Belt**, but pockets of dryness persisted across the **upper Midwest**. However, dry weather allowed **upper Midwestern** fieldwork, including corn planting, to proceed without delay. Elsewhere, light rain and snow showers provided little relief to drought-stressed winter grains and emerging spring wheat on the **northern High Plains**. Long-term drought also remained a concern on the **central High Plains**, despite recent topsoil moisture improvements. In contrast, conditions on the **southern and eastern Plains** remained mostly favorable for winter wheat and emerging summer crops. Meanwhile, only light showers dotted the **West**, maintaining dismal spring and summer runoff prospects. Warmth (weekly temperatures as much as 10 degrees F above normal in the **West Coast States**) spurred rapid development of **Northwestern** winter grains and emerging spring wheat, but continued to prematurely melt **Western** snow packs.

Sharp weather variations helped to balance weekly temperature departures across the majority of the Nation. On April 28, temperatures fell below 32 degrees F from parts of the **Ohio Valley into the Northeast**. Another push of cold air overspread the **Plains** and **Midwest** toward week's end. By May 2 and 3, freezes were reported as far south as **northeastern Colorado**, the **northern fringes of Kansas and Missouri**, and **northern portions of Illinois and Indiana**. Temperatures were not low enough to cause significant concern for jointing to heading winter wheat on the **central Plains**, but some of the earliest-planted corn across the **northern and western Corn Belt** may have been susceptible to freeze damage. For example, USDA/NASS reported that corn emergence by May 2 had reached 24 percent in **northeastern Kansas**, 9 percent in **Iowa**, 7 percent in **Nebraska**, and 4 percent in **Minnesota**.

Early in the week, torrential rainfall dotted the **central and western Gulf Coast States**. Daily-record totals for April 25 included 7.67 inches in **New Orleans, LA**, and 6.18 inches in **Corpus Christi, TX**. Heavy rain spread into the **East** on April 26, when daily-record totals reached 1.58 inches in both **Newark, NJ**, and **Bridgeport, CT**. Meanwhile, snow showers accompanied cooler weather in the **Great Lakes region**, where **Grand Rapids, MI**, collected a daily-record total (0.2 inch) on April 27. Late in the week, locally heavy showers returned to the **South**, where daily-record totals were set on the first day of May in locations such as **West Plains, MO** (2.18 inches), and **Victoria, TX** (2.67 inches). Heavy rain on the **Ozark Plateau** caused some additional lowland flooding in the wake of the previous week's downpours. Farther west, high winds accompanied the unsettled weather. On April 27, peak wind gusts in the **Northwest** included 53 m.p.h. in **Ephrata, WA**, and 52 m.p.h. in **Lewiston, ID**. Two days later in **Arizona**, Winslow clocked a peak gust to 62 m.p.h.

An early- to midweek chill in the **Northeastern and Great Lakes States** was replaced by much warmer weather. In **Maine**, **Caribou** opened the week with a daily-record low (17 degrees F on April 25), but tallied consecutive daily-record highs (82 and 83 degrees F) on April 30 and May 1. On April 28, **Eastern** daily-record lows included 25 degrees F in **Mansfield, OH**, 30 degrees F in **Huntington, WV**, and 32 degrees F in **Danville, VA**. Meanwhile, warmth overspread the **Plains** and **upper Midwest**, setting daily-record highs in locations such as **St. Cloud, MN** (92 degrees F), and **Fargo, ND** (91 degrees F). However, the **Midwestern** warmth was short-lived, and by May 3, the low of 21 degrees F in **Cresco, IA**, was the State's lowest temperature in May since 1967. Farther west, warmth was more consistent in the **Pacific Coast States**, where more than 100 daily-record highs were established during the week. In **California**, the hot spell featured several monthly record highs, including 100 degrees F (on April 26 and 27) in **Yorba Linda**, 100 degrees F (on April 26) in **Salinas**, and 99 degrees F (on April 27) in **Paso Robles**.

Alaskan temperatures ranged from 3 to 9 degrees F above normal nearly statewide, while wet weather was mostly confined to the **southern part of the State** early in the week. Daily-record totals for April 25 included 1.88 inches in **Petersburg** and 0.99 inch in **Juneau**. Two days later, **McGrath** netted a daily-record total (0.53 inch), including 0.7 inch of snow. Later in the week, **Petersburg** posted a daily-record high of 73 degrees F on the last day of April. Elsewhere on April 30, **Bethel** collected its first of four consecutive daily-record highs (63, 64, 63, and 63 degrees F). **Bethel's** April 30 high of 63 degrees F also set a monthly record, previously established with a maximum temperature of 61 degrees F on April 30, 2003. In contrast, cool weather held weekly temperatures as much as 3 degrees F below normal in **Hawaii**. On April 28, daily-record lows were set or tied in locations such as **Kahului**, **Maui** (59 degrees F), and **Lihue, Kauai** (61 degrees F). Widespread showers preceded the cool weather's arrival. On April 25-26, **Kokee, Kauai**, netted a 24-hour total of 1.86 inches. The following day (April 26-27) on the **Big Island**, 24-hour rainfall reached 2.90 inches in **Honokaa**.

National Agricultural Summary April 26 - May 2, 2004

Highlights: Below-normal temperatures prevailed across the Mississippi Valley, Great Plains, and central and southern Rockies but did not slow emergence of summer crops. Meanwhile, temperatures were above normal in the eastern and western parts of the Nation. Heavy rainfall caused flooding in parts of the Delta, where fieldwork was limited. Moderate precipitation brought some relief from dry conditions in the Southeast, but more rain is needed. Light to moderate precipitation fell across the Northeast, Ohio Valley, and southern Corn Belt, but dry conditions prevailed across the western Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains, with planting progress continuing ahead of normal. The southern Great Plains had light to moderate rainfall in most areas. Precipitation was light across the northern and central Rockies, while dry conditions in the Pacific Northwest caused moisture stress for winter wheat.

Corn: Planting advanced to 63 percent complete, 16 percentage points ahead of last year and 23 points ahead of normal. Eighteen percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 10 percent for last year and 11 percent for the 5-year average. Planting continued to progress rapidly in the Corn Belt, with mostly dry but cool weather. Minnesota growers planted 48 percent of their crop during the week, while Iowa producers planted 38 percent. In the northern and central Great Plains, planting rapidly advanced. Emergence was ahead of normal in most areas of the Corn Belt but near normal across the Great Plains.

Soybeans: Growers had planted 12 percent of the Nation's soybean crop, 3 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Planting had begun in all States but was most advanced in Mississippi, where growers had planted 78 percent of their crop, 32 points ahead of normal. Planting advanced the most during the week in Indiana and Ohio, where farmers planted 15 percent of their crop. Planting progressed ahead of the normal pace across most of the Corn Belt

Winter Wheat: Thirty-nine percent of the crop had reached the heading stage, compared with 33 percent for last year and 31 percent for the 5-year average. Development was most rapid in North Carolina, where 34 percent of the crop entered the heading stage during the week. Heading was also active in the southern half of the Great Plains, advancing 20 points or more in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Crop condition was unchanged nationwide but improved slightly in the Great Plains and declined in the Pacific Northwest.

Cotton: Planting advanced to 31 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the normal for this date. Planting continued to progress rapidly in the Delta, despite heavy rainfall. Mississippi producers planted 29 percent of their crop during the week, while Louisiana producers planted 21 percent. Meanwhile, planting advanced 22 percent in North Carolina and Virginia. Texas growers progressed little, planting only 2 percent of their crop during the week, but remained 4 points ahead of their normal pace.

Rice: Producers had planted 70 percent of the crop, compared with 68 percent last year and 64 percent for the 5-year average. Fifty-one percent of the crop had emerged, 9 points ahead of last year and 14 points ahead of normal. Planting slowed in Texas and Louisiana as heavy rainfall limited fieldwork, and progress fell behind the normal pace. Emergence was rapid in Mississippi and Missouri, where 36 and 31 percent of the crop emerged, respectively. The crop emerged slightly slower during the week in the rest of the Delta but remained well ahead of normal.

Sorghum: Planting was 23 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal. Illinois growers progressed the most, planting 11 percent of their crop during the week. Planting began in Kansas and Colorado but trailed behind the normal pace, while Nebraska growers began slightly ahead of their normal pace. In Texas, planting advanced to 53 percent complete, 7 points ahead of normal.

Small Grains: Spring wheat planting advanced to 68 percent complete, 11 points ahead of last year and 25 points ahead of normal. Thirty-two percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 22 percent for last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average. Minnesota and Montana growers planted 28 percent of their crop during the week, with progress in

North Dakota only slightly slower, at 24 percent. Planting was most advanced in Washington, at 99 percent, and South Dakota, at 97 percent. Emergence was well ahead of the normal pace in all States.

Barley growers had planted 63 percent of their crop, 13 points ahead of last year and 22 points ahead of normal. Emergence advanced to 28 percent, compared with 20 percent last year and 16 percent for the normal. Growers in Minnesota planted almost one-third of their crop during the week, and in Montana and North Dakota, over one-fifth of the crop was planted. Meanwhile, emergence steadily progressed ahead of normal in all States, except Idaho.

Oats were 77 percent planted, compared with 67 percent last year and 58 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence, at 39 percent, was 7 points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of normal. North Dakota producers planted 27 percent of their crop during the week, while Iowa and Nebraska growers neared completion, with 99 and 96 percent of their crops planted, respectively. Though emergence was ahead of normal in most States, the crop lagged 24 points behind the normal pace in Ohio.

Other Crops: Sugarbeet planting advanced to 93 percent complete, compared with 75 percent last year and 64 percent for the 5-year average. Idaho and Michigan growers finished planting, while Minnesota and North Dakota producers progressed rapidly during the week to bring their crops to 90 and 87 percent planted, respectively.

Peanut growers had planted 8 percent of their crop, the same as last year but 3 points behind normal. Planting had begun in all States but was most advanced in Florida and Oklahoma, where producers had planted 15 percent of their crop. Progress continued to lag slightly behind in all States, except Georgia and Oklahoma.

**Corn: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
CO	19	10	24	23
IL	82	64	62	47
IN	70	42	43	33
IA	74	36	48	43
KS	63	46	53	56
KY	78	72	66	64
MI	42	15	18	15
MN	71	23	64	46
MO	86	78	63	64
NE	52	22	28	34
NC	90	75	70	79
ND	48	17	40	23
OH	52	30	64	31
PA	21	8	20	18
SD	33	8	22	19
TN	87	82	84	82
TX	80	70	80	78
WI	16	3	22	19
18 Sts	63	37	47	40

¹ These 18 States planted 92% of last year's corn acreage.

**Corn: Percent Emerged,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
CO	1	0	1	2
IL	39	16	18	15
IN	20	5	8	7
IA	9	1	2	4
KS	20	10	22	22
KY	50	33	45	39
MI	2	0	0	0
MN	4	0	1	6
MO	61	37	38	35
NE	7	1	4	5
NC	70	41	34	53
ND	0	0	1	1
OH	5	0	6	3
PA	2	0	1	2
SD	1	0	1	1
TN	70	45	67	56
TX	65	63	67	64
WI	0	0	0	1
18 Sts	18	8	10	11

¹ These 18 States planted 92% of last year's corn acreage.

**Soybeans: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
AR	25	19	22	16
IL	6	3	5	8
IN	23	8	13	12
IA	9	0	3	6
KS	4	0	4	8
KY	8	3	3	6
LA	43	35	30	29
MI	12	3	3	4
MN	11	1	9	8
MS	78	65	61	46
MO	10	5	5	10
NE	5	1	2	5
NC	3	1	1	2
ND	5	1	6	2
OH	23	8	31	15
SD	2	1	1	2
TN	4	0	3	5
WI	3	0	0	1
18 Sts	12	5	9	9

¹ These 18 States planted 96% of last year's soybean acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Percent Headed,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
AR	87	70	73	87
CA	96	95	94	97
CO	5	0	2	2
ID	0	0	0	0
IL	13	2	16	13
IN	11	1	6	10
KS	28	6	18	17
MI	0	0	0	0
MO	28	11	25	30
MT	0	0	0	0
NE	0	0	0	0
NC	72	38	55	74
OH	3	2	1	0
OK	91	70	83	73
OR	2	0	0	1
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	69	49	63	59
WA	5	1	2	1
18 Sts	39	24	33	31

¹ These 18 States planted 91% of last year's winter wheat acreage.

**Cotton: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	42	28	52	48
AZ	65	52	63	68
AR	21	12	29	25
CA	95	90	60	80
GA	18	9	19	23
LA	58	37	40	47
MS	54	25	53	39
MO	24	15	17	34
NC	36	14	13	17
OK	8	3	12	9
SC	20	6	8	17
TN	4	3	16	21
TX	23	21	23	19
VA	40	18	23	33
14 Sts	31	23	29	28

¹ These 14 States planted 98% of last year's cotton acreage.

**Sorghum: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	49	43	65	65
CO	1	0	2	2
IL	14	3	1	6
KS	2	0	2	5
LA	62	55	42	50
MO	19	18	18	18
NE	2	0	1	1
NM	0	0	1	0
OK	13	7	13	10
SD	0	0	0	0
TX	53	50	49	46
11 Sts	23	20	21	22

¹ These 11 States planted 97% of last year's sorghum acreage.

**Rice: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	77	67	83	71
CA	25	10	16	21
LA	88	82	84	89
MS	75	59	64	63
MO	74	65	39	41
TX	90	85	91	92
6 Sts	70	60	68	64

¹ These 6 States planted 100% of last year's rice acreage.

**Rice: Percent Emerged,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	54	30	48	37
CA	5	2	0	2
LA	80	70	69	74
MS	57	21	32	32
MO	46	15	15	12
TX	85	80	76	80
6 Sts	51	33	42	37

¹ These 6 States planted 100% of last year's rice acreage.

**Peanuts: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	4	2	17	15
FL	15	8	8	17
GA	10	3	4	9
NC	2	0	4	7
OK	15	6	22	11
TX	4	1	8	9
VA	7	0	7	14
7 Sts	8	3	8	11

¹ These 7 States planted 97% of last year's peanut acreage.

**Sugarbeets: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
ID	100	99	97	91
MI	100	96	75	76
MN	90	55	72	55
ND	87	37	65	50
4 Sts	93	65	75	64

¹ These 4 States planted 83% of last year's sugarbeet acreage.

**Spring Wheat: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
ID	82	75	76	78
MN	72	44	65	39
MT	72	44	51	47
ND	56	32	46	30
SD	97	91	90	73
WA	99	98	94	90
6 Sts	68	46	57	43

¹ These 6 States planted 98% of last year's spring wheat acreage.

**Spring Wheat: Percent Emerged,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
ID	56	40	54	48
MN	27	8	18	10
MT	29	11	10	10
ND	21	6	16	8
SD	66	44	56	36
WA	86	79	66	63
6 Sts	32	15	22	15

¹ These 6 States planted 98% of last year's spring wheat acreage.

**Barley: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
ID	69	61	70	69
MN	56	24	51	33
MT	85	62	52	49
ND	45	23	35	20
WA	99	97	92	83
5 Sts	63	45	50	41

¹ These 5 States planted 83% of last year's barley acreage.

**Barley: Percent Emerged,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
ID	26	17	40	38
MN	18	3	10	7
MT	45	29	19	14
ND	12	2	8	4
WA	89	77	59	53
5 Sts	28	17	20	16

¹ These 5 States planted 83% of last year's barley acreage.

**Oats: Percent Planted,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
IA	99	97	97	95
MN	84	61	71	53
NE	96	88	92	92
ND	54	27	35	25
OH	61	52	91	80
PA	72	57	72	67
SD	91	84	83	63
WI	73	61	62	61
8 Sts	77	61	67	58

¹ These 8 States planted 53% of last year's oat acreage.

**Oats: Percent Emerged,
Selected States ¹**

State	Week Ending			1999- 2003 Avg.
	May 2, 2004	Apr 25, 2004	May 2, 2003	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
IA	77	47	67	66
MN	41	15	25	19
NE	67	48	70	72
ND	13	2	8	5
OH	28	10	46	52
PA	35	16	28	36
SD	48	35	47	30
WI	34	16	17	22
8 Sts	39	21	32	29

¹ These 8 States planted 53% of last year's oat acreage.

**Pasture and Range: Crop Condition by Percent,
Selected States**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX	State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	4	13	34	45	4	NJ	0	0	7	93	0
AZ	25	20	20	22	13	NM	14	29	50	7	0
AR	0	2	30	57	11	NY	1	6	14	57	22
CA	5	15	20	60	0	NC	1	4	33	54	8
CO	16	22	47	15	0	ND	8	30	36	25	1
CT	21	16	28	35	0	OH	0	3	24	58	15
DE	1	3	9	81	6	OK	3	9	30	48	10
FL	5	20	65	10	0	OR	3	8	36	44	9
GA	7	23	48	20	2	PA	2	6	20	51	21
ID	0	1	29	52	18	RI	0	0	0	10	90
IL	0	2	16	74	8	SC	0	17	50	31	2
IN	1	4	21	63	11	SD	18	25	37	19	1
IA	2	11	32	48	7	TN	0	3	19	62	16
KS	16	20	28	32	4	TX	6	10	29	37	18
KY	0	2	20	55	23	UT	1	17	43	38	1
LA	0	8	46	39	7	VT	0	24	41	34	1
ME	4	12	22	60	2	VA	1	3	21	57	18
MD	2	4	17	54	23	WA	6	3	30	60	1
MA	6	14	31	21	28	WV	1	4	26	61	8
MI	4	8	36	45	7	WI	1	12	34	47	6
MN	4	17	41	35	3	WY	15	25	32	28	0
MS	1	13	34	46	6						
MO	1	6	23	56	14	48 Sts	6	13	31	41	9
MT	21	27	35	15	2						
NE	9	23	38	28	2	Prev Wk	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NV	0	15	24	60	1	Prev Yr	6	15	33	38	8
NH	0	17	25	48	10						

**Winter Wheat: Crop Condition
by Percent, Selected States**

State	VP	P	F	G	EX
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	1	6	35	48	10
CA	0	5	20	45	30
CO	20	29	31	18	2
ID	0	3	18	75	4
IL	1	1	10	66	22
IN	0	1	13	68	18
KS	14	18	28	33	7
MI	0	3	23	55	19
MO	1	3	27	57	12
MT	18	23	43	14	2
NE	8	13	41	34	4
NC	1	5	24	59	11
OH	1	4	22	55	18
OK	4	9	28	48	11
OR	0	8	41	38	13
SD	15	22	29	30	4
TX	5	16	33	39	7
WA	2	7	36	49	6
18 Sts	8	14	30	40	8
Prev Wk	8	14	30	39	9
Prev Yr	5	11	29	43	12

VP-Very Poor, P-Poor, F-Fair, G-Good, EX-Excellent.

National crop conditions for selected States are weighted based on 2003 planted acres.

Crop Progress and Condition Survey and Estimating Procedures

Survey Procedures: Crop progress and condition estimates are based on survey data that are collected each week from early April to the end of November. The Crop progress and condition surveys are non-probability surveys that include a sample of more than 5,000 reporters whose occupations provide them opportunities to make visual observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties. Based on standard definitions, these reporters subjectively estimate progress of farmers' activities and progress of crops through their stages of development. They also provide subjective evaluations of crop conditions.

Most reporters complete their questionnaire on Friday or early Monday morning and submit it to the Agricultural Statistics Service's office in their State by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, or through a secured internet website. A small number of reports are completed on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Regardless of the time that the questionnaire is completed, reporters are asked to report for the week ending on Sunday. For reports submitted prior to the Sunday reference date, a degree of uncertainty is introduced into the projections for weekend progress and crop condition changes. By the end of the 2001 season, nearly two-thirds of the data were being submitted through the internet website. As a result, about one-half of all data are submitted on Monday morning, which has significantly reduced this projection uncertainty.

Reporters are sent written reporting instructions at the beginning of each season and are contacted periodically to ensure proper reporting. Terms and definitions of crop stages and condition categories that are used as reporting guidelines are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) website at: www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/cwterms.htm.

Estimating Procedures: Reported data are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported the previous week and data reported in surrounding counties for the current week. Each State Statistical Office summarizes the reported data to district and State levels, weighting each county's reported data by NASS county acreage estimates. Summarized indications are compared with previous week estimates, and progress items are compared with earlier stages of development and historical averages to ensure reasonableness. Weather events and reporter comments are also taken into consideration. State estimates are submitted to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) along with supporting comments, where they are compared with surrounding States and compiled into a National level summary by weighting each State by its acreage estimates.

Revision Policy: Progress and condition estimates in the "Crop Progress" report are released after 4:00 pm ET on the first business day of the week. These estimates are preliminary and subject to corrections or updates in the "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin" National Summary that is released after 12:00 pm ET on the second business day of the week. These estimates are then subject to revision the following week.

The next *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* report will be released after 12 p.m. ET on May 11, 2004.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: www.usda.gov/nass/. Select "Today's Reports" or Publications and then Reports Calendar or Publications and then Search, by Title or Subject.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS Home Page at www.usda.gov/nass/, click on **Publications**, then click on the **Subscribe by E-mail** button which takes you to the page describing e-mail delivery of reports. Finally, click on **Go to the Subscription Page** and follow the instructions.

PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)
Other areas, please call 703-605-6220 FAX: 703-605-6900
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.
